

On page 17, line 14, immediately after "CACATCTTCACTTGACCGAGAGCA-3')", please insert -- (SEQ ID NO:4) --.

On page 17, line 33, immediately after "AA-3')", please insert -- (SEQ ID NO:3) --.

On page 19, line 14, immediately after "(5'-CCAACCATGGCTCAGGAGAG-3')", please insert -- (SEQ ID NO:5) --.

On page 19, line 15, immediately after "CGGTACCTTCAGGACTCCATCT-3')", please insert -- (SEQ ID NO:6) --.

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) [A] An isolated polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence provided in SEQ ID NO:2 or a variant thereof that differs only in conservative substitutions and/or modifications at no more than 10% of the amino acid residues.

4. (Amended) An isolated DNA molecule encoding a polypeptide according to claim 1 [any of claims 1-3].

8. (Amended) A method for phosphorylating p38 comprising contacting p38 with a polypeptide according to claim 1 [either of claims 1 or 2], thereby phosphorylating p38.

9. (Amended) A method for activating a member of the p38 cascade in an organism, comprising administering to an organism a polypeptide according to claim 1 [either of claims 1 or 2], thereby activating a member of the p38 cascade.

11. (Amended) A method for screening for an agent that inhibits signal transduction via the p38 cascade, comprising:

(a) contacting a candidate agent with a polypeptide according to claim 1 [either of claims 1 or 2]; and

(b) subsequently measuring the ability of said polypeptide to activate p38, and thereby evaluating the ability of the compound to inhibit signal transduction via the p38 cascade.

12. (Amended) A method for screening for an agent that stimulates signal transduction via the p38 cascade, comprising:

(a) contacting a candidate agent with a polypeptide according to claim 1 [either of claims 1 or 2]; and

(b) subsequently measuring the ability of said polypeptide to activate p38, and thereby evaluating the ability of the compound to stimulate signal transduction via the p38 cascade.

13. (Amended) A monoclonal antibody that binds to a polypeptide according to claim 1 [either of claims 1 or 2].

Please cancel claims 2 and 3.

REMARKS

Consideration of the present application in view of the above amendments is respectfully requested. Applicants hereby amend claims 1, 4, 8-9 and 11-13, and cancel claims 2 and 3. Claims 1, 4, 8-9 and 11-13 have been amended to more clearly define the subject matter encompassed by Applicants' invention. Claims 2 and 3 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 1 and 4-21 are pending. No new matter has been added.

The enclosed electronic and paper copies of the Sequence Listing includes no new material, but is simply supplied to fulfill the requirements as outlined in the Notice to File Missing Parts of Application for compliance with requirements for Patent Applications